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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6466
INFO RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA 0016
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0014
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0412
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0518

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 001092

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/05/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNGA](#) [KV](#) [AG](#)
SUBJECT: GOA ON KOSOVO ICJ RESOLUTION AT UNGA

REF: STATE 105796

Classified By: Pol/Econ Chief Mark Schapiro for reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) We delivered reftel demarche on October 6 to Ahmed Saadi, Acting Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs at the MFA. Saadi was covering the Kosovo portfolio for a colleague who is currently in New York at the UNGA meetings, thus he said he was not able to respond substantively to our request nor would he be drawn out on a discussion of the Algerian position on Kosovo's independence. Saadi said he would relay our points to the Algerian Permanent Mission in New York.

12. (C) COMMENT: From previous discussions with MFA officials, we believe it is entirely possible that Algeria will vote "yes" on Serbia's resolution to refer a question on the legality of Kosovo's independence to the Hague. A "yes" vote would be consistent with Algeria's legalistic arguments to justify its position on Western Sahara and other demarche responses in which they generally fall back on international law and the consensus position of international organizations, especially the Arab League. An Arab League position on the resolution would be a good indicator of which way Algeria is leaning. We have not had any indication that Algeria is considering changing its position to support independence for Kosovo.

PEARCE